

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 03023 180743Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 MC-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02

TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 MCT-01 /109 W

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R 151530Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 111652: NA

TAGS: PFOR MASS EG IS

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DISMAYED AT USG ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL

1. UA RECEPTION OCT 14 EGYPTIAN MILITARY ATTACHE COLONEL XTROUK ABU EL-NASR ELEISH SOUGHT OUT POLOFF AND COMPLAINED AT LENGTH ABOUT USG DECISION TO PROVIDE NEW HIGH-TECHNOLOGY WEAPONS TO ISRAEL. AT TIME OF CONVERSATION ELEISH HAD SEEN ONLY PRELIMINARY REPORT CARRIED IN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE OCT 12.

2. ELEISH ASKED WHAT EGYPT HAD DONE TO DESERVE SUCH AN "UNFAIR" ACTION BY USG. HE SAID EGYPT WAS AT PRESENT IN MOST DIFFICULT ECONOMIC STRAITS AND COULD NOT AFFORD A NEW ROUND OF THE ARAB/ISRAELI ARMS RACE. EXTREMELY DEJECTED BUT MAINTAINING THAT HIS OWN FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TO U.S. HAD "NOT YET" ALTERED, ELEISH ASKED FOR SOME EXPLANATION OF USG ACTION. EMBOFF CONFINED REMARKS TO DISCUSSION OF PRESS REPORTS, POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO CONFIRM THEIR ACCURACY AS TO TYPE OF WEAPONRY BEING PROVIDED.

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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 03023 180743Z

3. ELEISH SAID THAT THE USG NOW "HELD 90 PERCENT OF THE CARDS"

IN MIDDLE EAST BECAUSE ARABS WERE DIVIDED AND SOVIET INFLUENCE HAD DWINDLED. GIVEN THIS SITUATION, ELEISH SAID THE USG SHOULD MOVE TO CONCLUDE A LASTING PEACE SETTLEMENT BEFORE NEW WEAPONS PROMISED TO ISRAEL DESTABILIZED PRESENT BALANCE. HE SAID ALL ARABS, INCLUDING THE SYRIANS AND EVEN THE PALESTINIANS (PLO), REALLY WANTED PEACE NOW.

4. ELEISH SAID HE HAD STAYED UP UNTIL 3:30 A.M. THE PREVIOUS NIGHT READING PRESS REPORTS AND WORRYING ABOUT USG MOVE. HE CLAIMED TO BE SPEAKING PERSONALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BUT INDICATED THAT HIS VIEWS WERE SHARED BY OTHER EGYPTIANS.

5. USDAO INFORMS THAT ELEISH HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL. HE IS ONE OF ONLY TWO NON-NATO MEMBERS OF MILATTACHE "TOP HAT" CLUB HERE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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